

Recommendations for CBF Churches Serving Migrant Populations

Thank you for the care and hospitality you extend to your neighbors from all over the world. Gathered here are resources and recommendations for understanding and protecting your church's rights as you serve migrant populations.



PROTECTED SENSITIVE LOCATION

- CBF partner congregations should identify themselves as protected by the February 2025 injunction affecting CBF houses of worship.
- Post the following language at all entrances of the church:

____[Name of Church]____ is part of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). Pursuant to a court order from the U.S. District Court of Maryland entered on February 24, 2025, Department of Homeland Security including ICE and CBP must treat our church as a “sensitive location” under the DHS Memorandum of October 27, 2021.

- Download [these posters](#) to use at each entrance of your church.



PARKING LOTS & PRIVATE SPACES

- Parking lots are included. Consider purchasing signs that say “Private Property” to place at the entrance of your parking lots.
- All of your property is private. “Private” signs inside the buildings do not provide any additional legal protections greater than the preliminary injunction.

PUBLICITY & SCHEDULES

- If possible, remove from public platforms any promotions/advertisements of gatherings where there will be vulnerable friends.
- Change up routines. Vary days or times or even entrances so that agents/ law enforcement cannot predict or prepare for when vulnerable friends will be present.

FIRST CONTACT

- Designate an authorized person or group to interact with ICE and review warrants and subpoenas.
- Make certain the people monitoring the doors or working in the front office are trained on how to respond to ICE requests and are willing to be a first contact.

AGENTS ON YOUR PROPERTY

- When people are there, unfortunately, lock the doors. Do not open them if agents show up.
- Inform the agents of the preliminary injunction. Show them a copy of it, [download here](#).
- Ask for ID and warrant or other documentation to be shown through a window or slid under a door.
- Know how to review warrants and subpoenas to ensure their legitimacy. To [download information](#) on warrants and subpoenas use the QR code



DOCUMENT ALL INTERACTIONS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

- You may video record any encounter on church property.
- The officers won’t like it and may even tell you that you can’t. You can record on private property as long as you are not impeding or obstructing the agents in carrying out their duties. The goal is to record identifying information that may be helpful in court—officers’ faces, badges, names and agency if wearing uniforms; vehicles and license plates; text of the warrant (if there was one); details about any arrest or removal; how the church leadership and members interacted with ICE; etc.
- Use the form at cbf.net/ice to report any confirmed or suspected immigration enforcement at a CBF church. CBF needs to know this information so we can notify our legal team at Democracy Forward. CBF’s attorneys need to know about any suspected or confirmed immigration enforcement activity at CBF churches so that they can ensure the government is complying with the court’s order and take whatever legal measures they need to in order to protect our rights.